

George Park Evaluation & Plan

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George Park

2012.0002.040 Postcard

Hopkinton Historical Society



Blood Field



- Current Use- HS & MS softball, HYSA softball, Rec Dept. softball, men's softball, HS soccer in outfield, sponsor sign revenue for HYSA, practice inside of batting cages
- Current Condition- very good- some home dugout blocks are showing signs of deteriorating, men's softball takes up 2 fields, perimeter net has holes and balls escape, lights unsafe and not working, poles need to be removed soon, parking lot runoff washes debris and dirt onto field, need dirt and landscape timbers under batting cage, chain link above this field is in bad shape
- Future Use- same as current. Complete safety net is needed, make dugout improvements, lights would be nice

Pitching Wall



- Current Use - HS & MS softball, HYSA softball, HS LAX, HS soccer
- Current Condition- good- was repaired about 7-8 years ago
- Future Use- same as current- could clean up the landscaping

Bathrooms/ Snack Shack



- Current Use- bathrooms, very rarely used as snack shack, equipment storage, houses electric for entire facility.
- Current Condition- extremely poor- bathrooms occasionally overflow into snack shack area, it is not handicapped accessible, number of stalls inadequate, sometimes vandalized, drainage from parking lot washes dirt and debris down
- Future Use- Same, however badly needs an upgrade to increase the number of bathroom stalls, become ADA compliant, remedy sanitation issues, and ideally incorporate more storage.

Storage Shed



- Current Use- HS team storage, School PE storage
- Current Condition- good- cluttered but usable
- Future Use- storage will always be needed in this area (could be incorporated in a new bathroom/snack shack)

Soccer Field



- Current Use- HS soccer, School PE classes, becomes baseball outfield in the spring
- Current Condition- good- by end of soccer season the turf is usually in rough shape from overuse
- Future Use- same as current

Baseball Field



- Current Use- HS & MS baseball, outfield becomes soccer field in the fall
- Current Condition- good- new dugouts complete, transition from dirt to grass creates a hazard during play, home dugout often vandalized, drainage from parking lot washes dirt and debris onto field
- Future Use- same as current

Skate Park



- Current Use- skaters, bikers, scooter riders
- Current Condition- fair- requires constant maintenance, trash and vandalism frequent, no supervision, users do not follow ordinance rules, items/equipment dragged into park from other areas and damaged
- Future Use- same as current (well used)- need to be able to secure site and monitor users

Field Hockey Field



- Current Use- HS & MS field hockey, HYSA field hockey, Rec Dept. field hockey, School PE classes, HS & MS track, Granite State track, Special Olympic snowshoeing, Nordic skiing
- Current Condition- good- chain link is in rough shape, street parking is an issue
- Future Use- same as current, parking needed

Basketball Court



- Current Use- recreational basketball players
- Current Condition- fair- surface and lines are good, size is adequate
- Future Use- same as current- a community basketball court is needed somewhere in Town

Tennis Courts



- Current Use- School PE class, HYSA tennis, HS & MS track, members of the community
- Current Condition- poor/fair- huge surface cracks have been temporarily patched, poles reset to straighten, uneven surface areas hold water, fence is damaged, needs regular maintenance plan
- Future Use- HYSA tennis program plans to grow, LAX could use court in early season if poles were removable, a HS tennis team would need 3 courts

Track



- Current Use- HS & MS track and cross country teams, School PE classes, Granite State Track, community walkers/runners
- Current Condition- inadequate- unconventional 1/5 mile track is difficult for teams to train for meets, timbers in bad shape
- Future Use- programs could potentially grow- ideally replace with a regulation track with a grass multi-purpose field inside

Pump House



- Current Use- irrigation and Town storage
- Current Condition- great- new
- Future Use- same as current

Clarke Field



- Current Use- School PE classes, MS softball, HYSA baseball and softball, outfield used for School field hockey and soccer practice, practice in batting cages
- Current Condition- good- dugouts are dated and small, can't be used when men's softball is playing, need dirt and landscape timbers under batting cage
- Future Use- same as current

Clarke Storage Shack



- Current Use- HYSA and men's softball storage
- Current Condition- good- in good shape, no longer has power so it cannot be used as a snack shack
- Future Use- same as current. If power is restored, could use the snack shack again. Storage will always be needed in this area

Parking Behind Clarke



- Current Use- parking
- Current Condition- good- but size is inadequate
- Future Use- same as current but would like to make it bigger

Pavilion



- Current Use- community and school picnic gatherings
- Current Condition- good
- Future Use- same as current

School Parking Lot

(school property)



- Current Use- parking on school property
- Current Condition- substandard- needs drainage issues resolved, more parking needed at times
- Future Use- same as current- drainage needs to be fixed prior to most improvements being made at George Park. Additional parking is needed

Committee findings

Immediate Safety Concerns

- Sanitation and hygiene issues in bathroom/snack shack
- Parking lot drainage
- Track timbers
- Baseball Field lip
- Skate Park users dragging items inside
- Parking on Rt.103

Areas Deteriorating

- Tennis courts
- Blood Field dugouts
- Electrical
- Utility Poles
- Nets on Blood Field
- Chain link fence
- Track

Committee suggestions to address safety

Needs

- Replace bathrooms/snack shack
- Remedy drainage issues with parking lot runoff
- Fix Baseball Field lip
- Remove Track timbers
- Enclose Skate Park

Wants

- Move location of Kearsarge Ave entrance to the school when drainage is being addressed. This will increase parking and make for safer pedestrian travel
- Skate Park ramps made of concrete
- More parking elsewhere to eliminate Rt. 103 parking
- Surveillance system





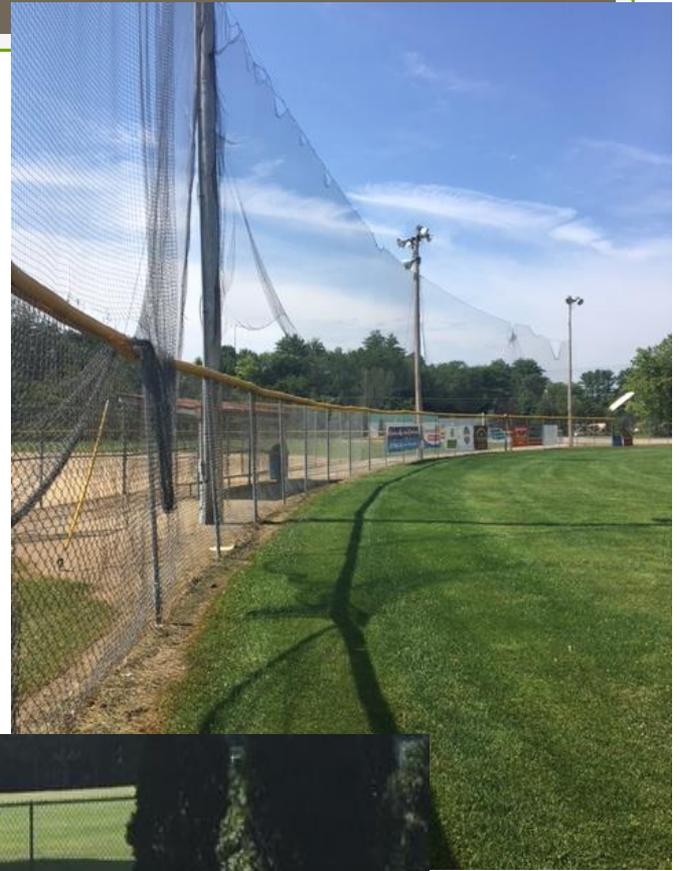
Committee suggestions to address areas that are deteriorating

Minimum

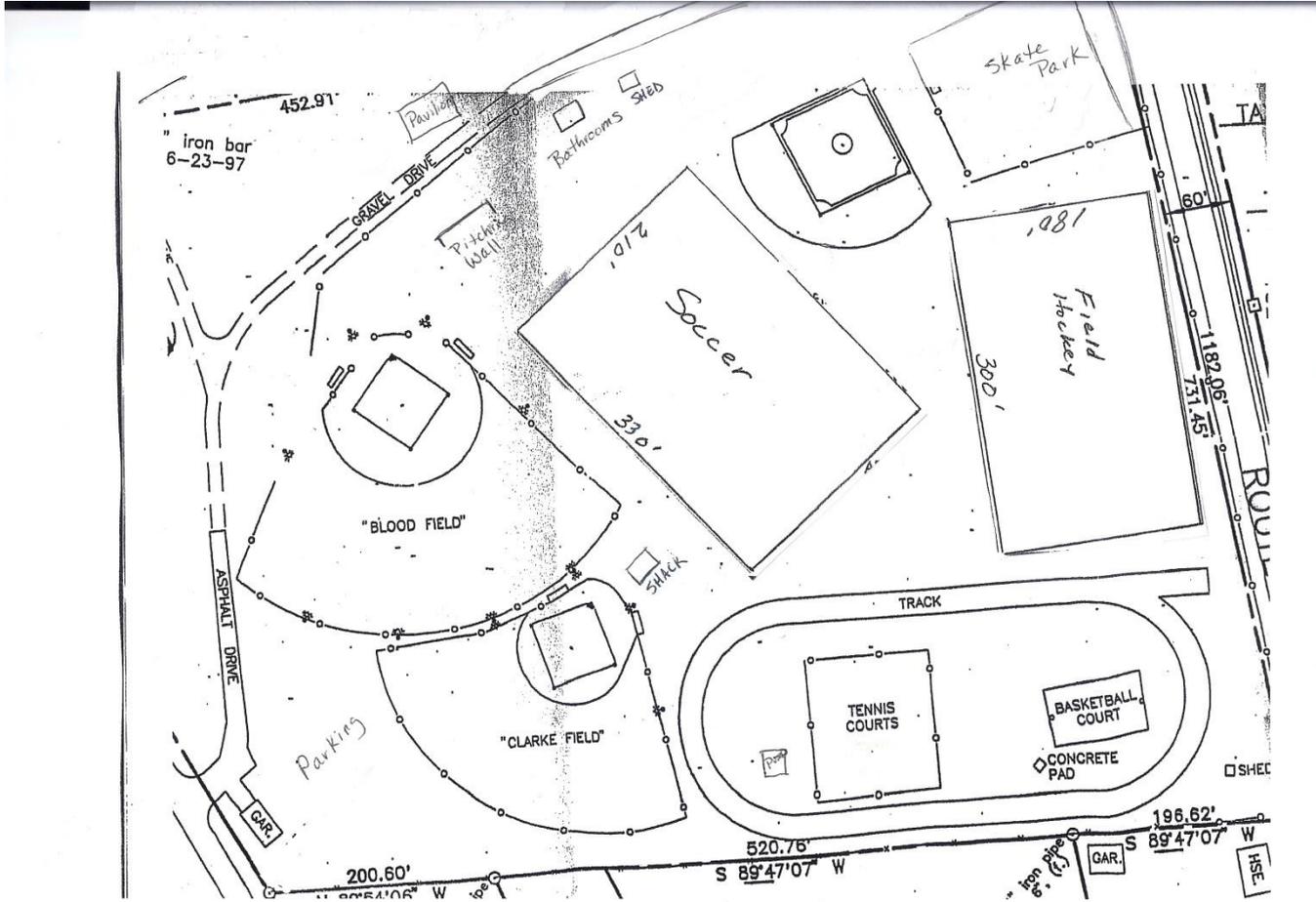
- Spruce up tennis courts
- Replace Blood Field dugouts and add storage
- Update facility's electrical
- Remove utility poles
- Remove or replace Blood Field nets
- Replace chain link fence as needed

Wants

- Brand new tennis courts in new location and add 1-2 more courts
- Add new field lighting if groups fundraise for it
- Replace chain link fence around entire facility
- Build a regulation 6 lane track with a multi-purpose grass playing field inside



Current Map



Committee Proposed Changes

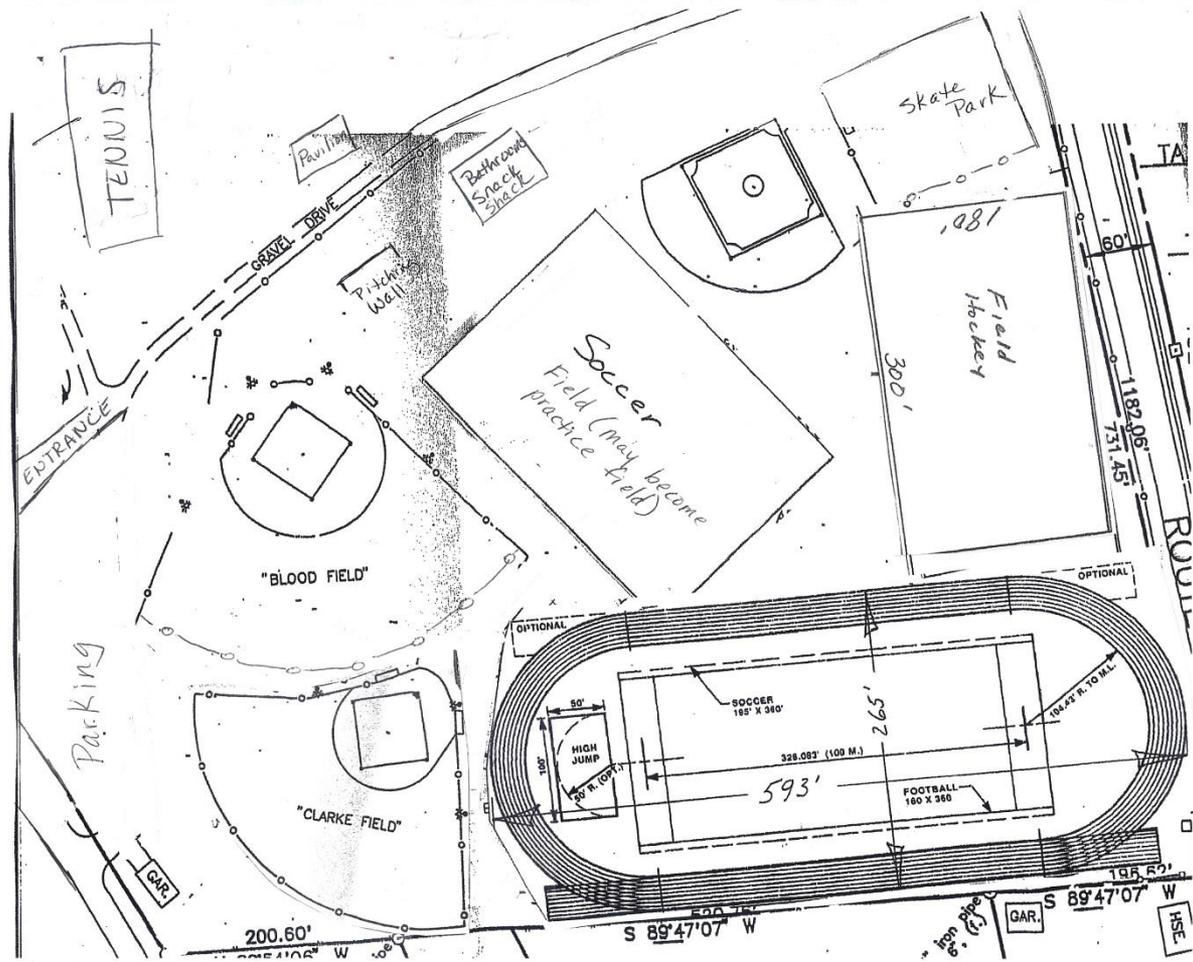
Must Haves

- Build brand new bathrooms/snack shack with storage and remove current bathrooms and shed
- Fix parking lot drainage issues and increase parking

Recommendations

- Move the Kearsarge Ave. entrance farther up the road
- Enclose Skate Park with 8 ft. fence
- Re-fence facility
- Relocate tennis to the left of the back entrance up on hill
- Add 6 lane rubberized track with full sized multi-purpose grass field inside. Creation could necessitate the following:
 1. Move Field Hockey Field nearer to the Skate Park
 2. Move Field Hockey scoreboard
 3. Move Clarke shed if necessary, move batting cage if necessary
 4. Keep Baseball Field as-is, move batting cage if necessary
 5. Shorten Soccer Field (can be a practice field) if necessary to accommodate track
 6. Relocate basketball either to Houston or in tennis courts
 7. Bring Clarke Field forward into parking area
 8. Shorten Blood Field to a 200 foot regulation field (from 235 ft.)

Proposed Map



Users of GP in 2017

- Track:
 - Spring: MS & HS- 75, Granite State- 100 (growing program)
 - Fall: MS & HS XC-60
- Tennis:
 - Spring, summer & fall: HYSA- 30 (growing program)
- Multi-purpose field:
 - Spring: track users and baseball outfield
 - Summer: Field hockey camp
 - Fall: 3 MS & HS teams, women's Rec field hockey, 2-4 soccer teams, 1HYSA team
- Blood/Clarke Field:
 - 3 MS & HS teams, 11 HYSA teams, 5 women's Rec softball teams, 8 men's softball teams, 2 summer tournaments
- Baseball Field:
 - 3 MS & HS teams

Costs

- Constructions costs dependent on scope of project but could include:
 - Bathroom/snack shack
 - Parking lot drainage
 - Move Kearsarge Ave. entrance
 - Either renovate existing tennis courts or build 3-4 new tennis courts in a different location
 - Skate Park fencing
 - Full or partial fencing of facility
 - Blood Field dugouts replaced
 - Electrical system upgrade
 - Add parking
 - Remove utility poles
 - Fix Baseball Field lip
 - Convert Skate Park ramps to concrete as they need to be replaced
 - Build new track

New Track

- We do recommend that a 6-lane regulation track with a multi-purpose field replace the current, outdated, track. We similarly recommend that funding for this project be shared equally by the Town, the School District, and by Private Fundraising efforts. This endeavor may necessitate some of the following:
 - Move Clarke Field
 - Move batting cages
 - Move Pump House
 - New tennis courts elsewhere
 - New Basketball court elsewhere
 - Add additional irrigation as needed
 - Shortening Blood Field
 - Add parking

Additional Maintenance & Upkeep (Costs & Time)

- Track surface maintenance
- Extra field to maintain
- Resurface tennis and basketball every 5-7 years
- Increase in electrical usage if new lighting is installed

Summary:

- George Park is very dated and has safety and health issues that need to be addressed immediately
- Many other aspects of the Park are deteriorating and will need to be addressed in the near future
- The school parking lot is located on school property. The school will need to commit to fixing the drainage before many issues at the Park can be addressed
- Some perceived “wants”, such as a track and new tennis courts, have been identified as areas of need by various committees since 2000